

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 03094 252305Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 PM-05 DODE-00 SS-15  
L-03 MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 HA-05 /061 W  
-----119087 260825Z /10  
R 252253Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0391  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 3094

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, GT  
SUBJ: CADILLAC-GAGE ARMORED CARS TO GUATEMALA

REF: STATE 112423

1. REFTEL REQUESTED ASSESSMENT OF MISSION GOG HAS IN MIND FOR V-150'S AND INFORMATION ABOUT LIKELY DESIRED CONFIGURATION.
2. THE GUATEMALAN ARMY NOW HAS A TOTAL OF 53 ARMORED VEHICLES OF VARIED TYPES AND AGES BASED IN FIVE LOCATIONS COUNTRYWIDE. OF THESE, TEN ARE DEPLOYED IN THE BELIZE BORDER AREA. MUCH OF THIS EQUIPMENT, SOME OF IT RENOVATED, DATES FROM WORLD WAR II.
3. OUR INFORMANTS IN THE GUATEMALAN ARMY TELL US THAT ARMORED VEHICLES WILL BE PART OF A FOUR-YEAR MODERNIZATION PLAN THE ARMY EXPECTS TO PRESENT TO GENERAL LUCAS AFTER HE TAKES OFFICE THIS JULY. THE ARMY IS PLEASED WITH THE SEVEN CADILLAC-GAGE V-100'S BOUGHT IN 1971 AND SEES A CURRENT REQUIREMENT TO REPLACE AND SUPPLEMENT THE MIXED BAG OF ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES NOW IN ITS INVENTORY. SPECIFICALLY, WE BELIEVE THE IDEA IS TO REPLACE 26 OLDER (WORLD WAR II VINTAGE) VEHICLES AND EQUIP RECONNAISSANCE UNITS FOR MORE OF THEIR NINE INFANTRY MANEUVER GROUPS. THE RECENTLY PUBLICIZED HONDURAN PURCHASE OF BRITISH SCORPIONS MAY HAVE WHETTED APPETITES. PRESTIGE

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(I.E., GUATEMALAN PRETENSIONS TO RECOVER PARITY IF NOT ITS OLD PREEMINENCE AS A MILITARY POWER IN CENTRAL AMERICA) IS PROBABLY AN UNDERLYING FACTOR IN THEIR INTEREST. THEY TELL US THEY WOULD NOT WANT ARMAMENT ON THE V-150 IN EXCESS OF 20MM.

4. OUR GUATEMALAN MILITARY INFORMANTS MAINTAIN THAT BELIZE

IS INCIDENTAL TO THIS PART OF THEIR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. THEY NOTE THAT THEIR CURRENT INVENTORY IS SCATTERED, NOT "MASSED" AT THE BELIZE BORDER. FOR OUR PART WE DO NOT BELIEVE THESE VEHICLES WOULD BE OF GREAT PRACTICAL VALUE IN A HYPOTHETICAL BELIZE INCURSION SINCE TERRAIN WOULD APPEAR TO RESTRICT THEM TO THE MELCHOR DE MENCOS/BENQUE VIEJO ACCESS ROUTE.

5. ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SIDE, WE CANNOT RECALL THE LAST TIME ARMORED VEHICLES WERE USED IN GUATEMALA FOR CROWD CONTROL/INTIMIDATION PURPOSES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE USE OF VEHICLES OF THIS SORT TO CONTAIN POTENTIAL CIVIL UNREST TO BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN GOG INTEREST IN THEM, ALTHOUGH DOUBTLESS THEY COULD LEND THEMSELVES TO SUCH USE WERE THE NEED TO ARISE.  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY SALES, GROUND VEHICLES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978GUATEM03094  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CADILLAC-GAGE ARMORED CARS TO GUATEMALA  
**TAGS:** MASS, GT  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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